ちはやふる

Poem 181

SOME-
TIMES
I SEE
IT.

THE Z
AXIS,

RUNNING
PERPEN-
DICULAR
TO THE
OTHER
TWO.

IS IT REALLY OK?

I'M STILL AHEAD.

I'M STILL UP BY 5 CARDS. SO IT'S OK.

IT'S-

IT'S OK.

Kanata win!

はぁ

はぁ

SUDOU-SAN.

Hatred

'I WANT TO WIN AGAINST SUDOU-SAN.'

.....

I'VE GAINED THIS LEAD BY PAINSTAKINGLY ADDING CARD AFTER CARD TO IT.

AND YET,

BY TAKING JUST ONE CARD, IT FEELS LIKE SHE TOOK 5 CARDS AT ONCE FROM ME.

SWISH

OTHER THINGS MAKE UP FOR LIKE 80% OF IT.

HERE!

GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD THAT KARUTA AIN'T ALL ABOUT JUST TAKES.

STICK WITH ME FOR SOME BACKSWING PRACTICE, AYASE!

Got fed up

WE WON'T ELIMINATE OUR WEAKNESSES JUST BY PLAYING EACH OTHER TILL WE DROP!

FSH

Ara-

shi

yuku

~

WOW, YOU SUCK~ HALF-ASSED MUCH~

Flowing

Notes, notes

ふりゆくも
のはわかみ
なりけり

ありなしに
なしけれ

DEATH DREAM

Aki

kaze

ni~

UGH!

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH FALLING FLAT ON YOUR FACE TO TAKE A CARD? IT'S COOL!

BUT I'LL JUST FALL DOWN IF I TRY TAKING CARDS LIKE THAT...

.....

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY PLANNING TO FIGHT WITH JUST THE TECHNIQUES YOU COPIED FROM WAKAMIYA? ARE YOU REALLY THAT MUCH OF A MORON?

Ugh

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING TO LIE IN WAIT TILL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT WHILE LISTENING FOR AS LONG AS I COULD...

DEATH DREA

SHE REALLY FELL ON HER FACE!

I-I...

SO LAME WHAT A DUNCE!

Ugh

TH-

THANK-

.....

I'm so jealous...

LET'S DEVOUR THE CHAMPIONS WHOLE!

Ouu-ouu-ouuuu!

LET'S PLAY, AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES FOR THE TWO OF US.

THREE.

TWO.

ONE.

READY.

YOU'RE A MESS.

SO FALL!

I'LL FALL.

BAM

IF YOUR LEFT ARM IS IN THE WAY, FLAIL IT UP AND AWAY.

THREE.

TWO.

ONE.

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

ONE. TWO.

HERE WE GO.

SUDOU-SAN...

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO WORK ON YOUR SPEED, YOURSELF?

Ca

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

Not jealous at all...

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

バ

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ハッ

ハッ

ハッ

……

READY.

ONE.

TOO SLOW!

DEATH

READY.

ONE.

Awawawww

ONE.

SLOW!

YOU'RE NOT FOCUSING ENOUGH ON REACHING THE CARD WITH YOUR MIDDLE FINGER.

YOUR MOTION NEEDS TO BE MORE EXPLOSIVE!

READY.

ONE.

FINE BY ME!

WANNA PLAY A GAME?

……

ハア

ハア

DEATH
DREAM
the dream of death

DEATH
DREAM

ぼっ

ぼっ

ぼっ

17

AH.

Hisakata no~

「」
「」

"GLOWED."

"FLOATING."

"LIKE HELL YOU COULD DO THAT, DOOFUS!"

.....

Hatred

Carula

THAT'S SURE NICE.

THAT MUST BE

THE SHAPE YOU "HEAR" IT AS, AYASE.

.....

THAT'S NICE.

OH.

I HEARD ABOUT SOME-THING SIMILAR.

LIKE, APPARENTLY, TO QUEEN WATARAI EISEI'S EYES, THE CARD THAT WOULD BE READ GLOWED.

...HUH?

SOMETIMES YOU CAN SEE THE CARD THAT WILL BE READ AS FLOATING, YOU SAY?

EVERY TIME I PRACTICE WITH SUDOU-SAN,

EVEN WHEN IT'S ONE-ON-ONE AND THE PLACE IS OUR USUAL PRACTICE GROUNDS, IT'S ALWAYS

. ALWAYS THE SITUATION WITH 2 WINS AND 2 LOSSES FOR EACH OF US.

AND WE'RE PLAYING THE LAST MATCH THAT THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP RIDES ON.

はっ

はっ

はっ

HUA
AH...!
Tu-

THANK YOU FOR THE GAME.

THANK YOU FOR THE GAME.

A FAULT!

SHE TURNED THE GAME AROUND!

AND WON!

はっ

はっ

はっ

A-AYASE-SAN?

ARE YOU ASLEEP?

PLEASE NO---!

HAA...

EEK!

ガラーン

WHAT IS SHE, A SAMURAI?

ヒソヒソ

TH-

THANK YOU...

Karuta Win!

MY FOOT IS NOT TO BLAME.

MYSELF IS...

WRAP

はあ

AH.

WHAT'S WITH YOUR FOOT?

.....

IS THAT WHY YOU COULDN'T PROPERLY FOCUS IN THE FIRST HALF OF YOUR MATCH?

Caruta

AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LAST TILL THE END.

TRYING TO GET YOUR FOCUS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME IS SO EXHAUSTING.

SPEAKING OF,

TILL THE END.

バキッ!!

Caruta

WHERE'S YOUR CHOCO-LATE?

AH, RIGHT. GOTTA REPLENISH THE LOST ENERGY WITH MY CHOCOLATE SUPPL---

NOM!

HAH!

LET'S GO.

WE NEED TO CHECK MATCHUPS FOR THE SECOND ROUND.

WEREN'T YOU A HARDCORE RICE PERSON..?!

THE ONE TO MAKE ME

REFOCUS HALF THROUGH THE GAME

AND GET ME BACK IN SHAPE WAS...

DID IT HELP CALM YOU?

AH!

YUMI-SA...

ARE YOU AIR WRITING THE CHARACTER FOR 'CALM'?

静

Kanta win!

静

Karuta win!

YUMI-SAN, I...

I...

Karuta win!

ズビッ

YU-

NO, I DO NOT.

YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO ACCIDENTALLY HAVE AN EXTRA BAND-AID YOU CAN SHARE?

IN CALLI-GRAPHY,

A SINGLE WRONG STROKE RUINS EVERY-THING.

I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HER THE BAND-AID RIGHT WHEN SHE ASKED.

IT WAS WRONG NOT TO.

BUT IN YOUR CASE, YOU'RE UNTRAINED TO KEEP STEADY

WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF YOUR LEFT ARM.

THE BODY WEIGHT DISTRI-BUTION SHOULD BE

20% ON THE LEFT ARM, 40% ON THE RIGHT LEG AND 40% ON THE LEFT LEG.

YOUR STANCE IS ALL WEIRD, TOO.

YOU SHOULD POSITION YOURSELF MORE RELAXEDLY, WITH YOUR FINGERS SLIGHTLY CURVED.

INSTEAD OF WAITING WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND SPREAD FLAT AGAINST THE FLOOR,

EH?!

DO YOU WANT TO COME PLAY HERE AGAIN?

YOU CAN.

IN CALLIGRAPHY, TOO, YOU WRITE AGAIN AND AGAIN, SHEET AFTER SHEET, RIGHT?

WHEN A CARD IS READ, YOU SHOULD SPRING FORWARD IN A SMOOTHER MOTION.

YOU SHOULD ONLY START STRAINING YOUR MUSCLES RIGHT BEFORE YOU TOUCH THE CARD.

THAT WAY, YOU WON'T GET AS TIRED.

I CAN STILL

TEACH YOU A LOT OF THINGS SO THAT YOU COULD.

"I WANT TO COME HERE ONCE AGAIN.

PLEASE TEACH AND GUIDE ME SO THAT I COULD."

Suippi

L M S
? ? ?

IF YOU JOIN THE SUIHOKU SOCIETY, THAT IS.

Suippi

KITANO-SENSEI...

grade schooler

IT MAY BE BELATED,

Hm?

BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND HOW KITANO-SENSEI FELT.

Karuta

Win!

THE WAY HAYAMI-SAN CONNECTS WITH THE CARDS IS INTRIGUING.

SHE STILL HAS A ROOM FOR GROWING STRONGER.

AND I WANT TO SEE HER GETTING THERE.

DO I STILL HAVE THE ROOM

TO GET STRONGER AND SHOW IT TO YOU, TOO....?

WE HAVE FINISHED DETERMINING MATCHUPS FOR THE SECOND ROUND.

FUJISAKI KARUTA SOCIETY
YAMASHIRO RON

VS.

SUIHOKU KARUTA SOCIETY
YAMAMOTO YUMI

UGH...

THE UP AND COMING YOUNG STAR

dippi

FUJISAKI KARUTA SOCIETY
SAKURAZAWA MIDORI

VS.

SHIRANAMI KARUTA SOCIETY
AYASE CHIHAYA

LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME, AYASE-SAN.

FUJISAKI

Karuta

Ha ha ha ha!

YOU MAY BE SAYING THAT, BUT YOU CAME HERE FULLY PREPARED TO TAKE DOWN EVERYONE IN YOUR PATH, RIGHT?

UWAAN!

IT'S RACING AT FULL SPEED, HARADA-SENSEI!

IT'S NOT JUST BEATING FASTER.

A MATCHUP THAT MAKES YOUR HEART BEAT FASTER, NO, CHIHAYA-CHAN?

NICE WAY OF PUTTING IT.

I SEE, STUDENT MODE, EH.

BUT I'M AFRAID TO FALL INTO STUDENT MODE.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT, I DID.

Against Tamura-san's brother...

OOH... A LANDSLIDE WIN BY 12 CARDS...

COME TO THINK OF IT,

THE OTHER DAY

MEGANE-KUN CAME TO ME TO PRACTICE.

SORRY,

BUT I'D LIKE SOME SPACE AS I WANT TO FOCUS, SO.

AH, SORRY THEN.

RIGHT, I COULD JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE MATCHUP REPORT CARD TO GET THE ANSWER.

wobble

wobble

AH!

TAICHI!

HOW DID YOUR FIRST ROUND GO?

DID YOU WIN?

MEGANE-KUN SURE IS CHEEKY.

HARADA-SENSEI, I APOLOGIZE,

BUT THERE ARE NO PLAYERS OF YOUR TYPE IN FUKUI.

...WAS WHAT HE SAID AS HE INVADED OUR HQ.

HE, TOO, WAS IN STUDENT MODE.

AND I WANT TO PLAY A KARUTA

THAT WON'T LOSE TO THE SHIRANAMI SOCIETY'S KARUTA.

AH, TAICHI?

A- AND?

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THAT PRACTICE?

Caruta

DID YOU PLAY MATCHES AGAINST EACH OTHER? SENSEI, HOW---

YOUR SECOND ROUND MATCH IS HELD ON THE FIRST FLOOR AS WELL, I BELIEVE, CHIHAYA-CHAN?

WELL THEN. WE SHOULD GET GOING, TOO.

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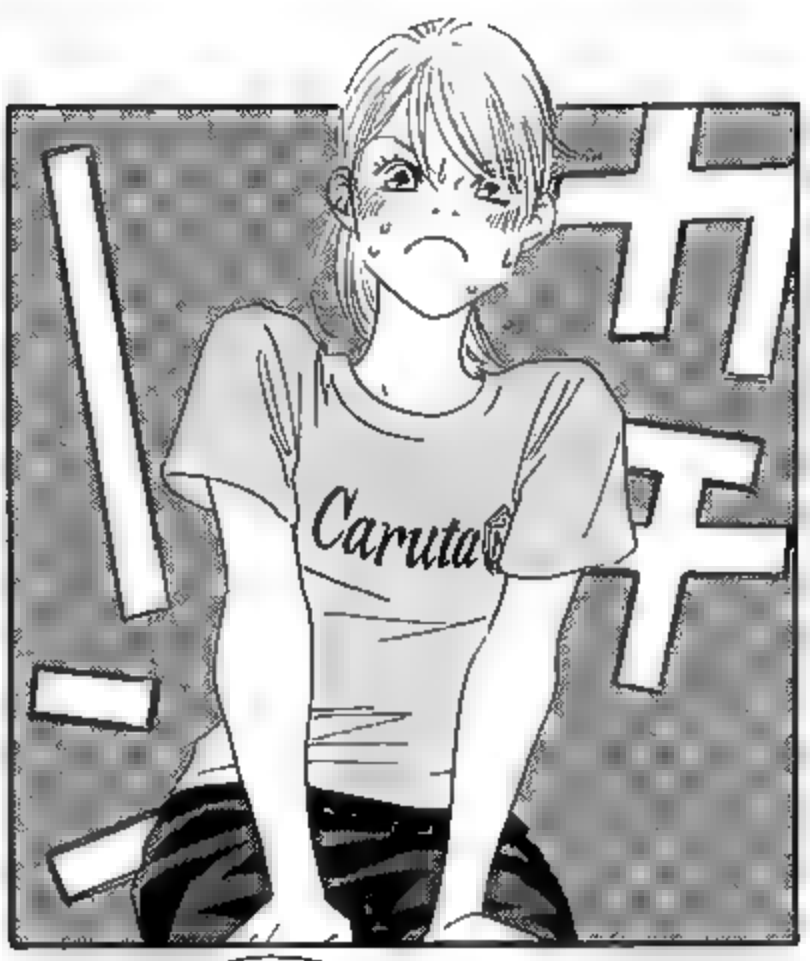
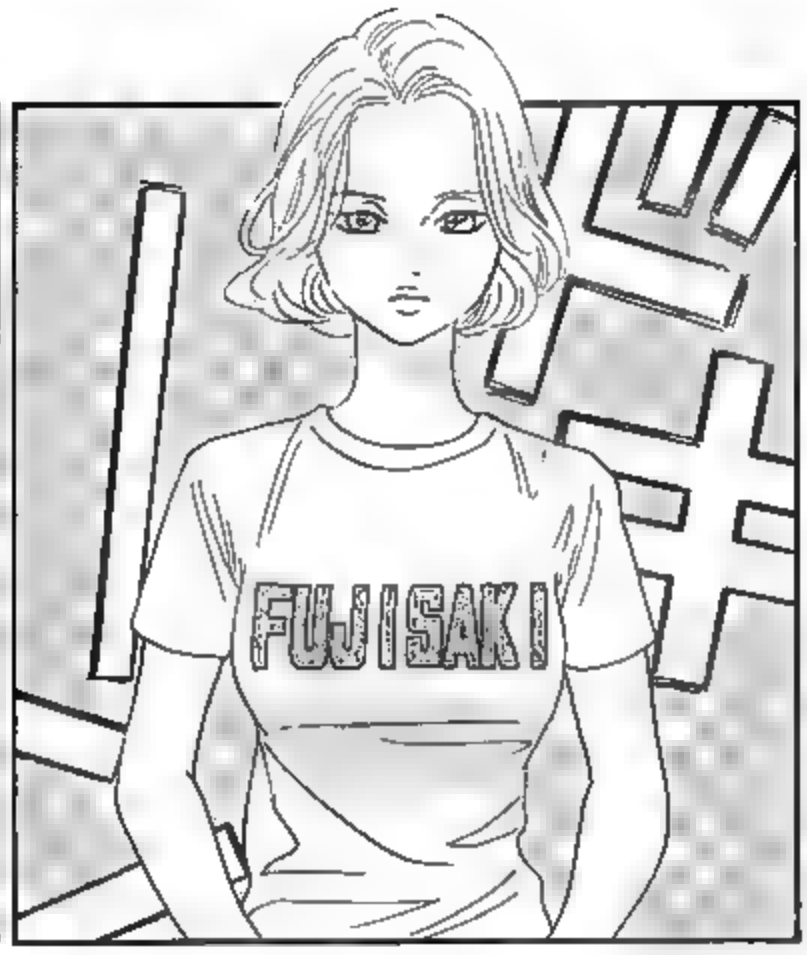

Caruta


FUJISAKI

HARADA-SENSEI WENT TO THE TROUBLE TO CHAT YOU UP, AND LOOK AT YOU.
AIN'T YOU BOTHERED A LITTLE TOO MUCH?
北央
YO.
ドキドキ

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M WITH THE SHIRANAMI SOCIETY.
FUFUN. ARE YOU, NOW?
Sudou-san is
the same Sudou-san as always
YOU'VE LONG SINCE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TOUDAI KARUTA SOCIETY, EH?
OH RIGHT, I FORGOT.
北央★

stomp

HEY, MASHI-MA.

ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE

BUT OF COURSE. IF I'M WITH THE SHIRANAMI SOCIETY,

I CAN AVOID HAVING TO PLAY AGAINST HARADA-SENSEI AND HIROSHI-SAN.

IMPLYING THAT PLAYING AGAINST ME IS AN EASIER OPTION?

IT IS A BIG ADVANTAGE.

ONI-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LOSING RIGHT OFF THE BAT? AND SUCH A BIG LOSS TO SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN YOU, TO BOOT?

MASHIMA TAICHI IS YOUR SENPAI, NO? ARE YOU HOLDING UP FINE, YOUSELF?

HUH?

.....

DID YOU HEAR THAT THOSE WHO GOT TO PLAY AGAINST MEIJIN SUOU START WANTING TO QUIT KARUTA?

I THINK I HEARD THAT, BUT WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO---

THAT GUY MAKES YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY.

SUDOU-SAN.

THE FIRST ONE TO LOSE

WILL QUIT COMPETITIVE KARUTA FOR GOOD.

LET'S MAKE A BET AGAIN

LIKE WE DID BEFORE.

HUH?

WELL, I'M GAME. I DO IT EVERY YEAR ANYWAY.

WHAT ARE WE BETTING?

HOW ABOUT A BET LIKE THIS?

TAICHI?!

TA-

HERO

Carita

RION-SENPAI'S MOTHER IS SUCH A NICE PERSON!

SHE MADE SO MANY ONIGIRI. ♡

SHE EVEN SAID SHE MADE SOME FOR US, TOO. ♡

EH, AKIRA?! YOU TOOK A NORMAL TRAIN?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU BOARD A SHINKAN-SEN?!

Delivering the forgotten items

TDX Release
Chihayafuru
SPECIAL THANKS
Redrawing:
Nazo no Seibutsu